

Docket # OON-1396

Docket # OOD-1598

ATTN: FDA Commissioner, Jane Henney Dockets Management Branch

Genetically engineered foods (GEF's) can cause allergic responses, be toxic, have lowered nutritional value and/or compromise immune responses in consumers.

(HFA-305)

The rule proposing that companies voluntarily consult with the FDA concerning the safety of food is inadequate. Because the consultation process is voluntary, food producers could choose not to notify the FDA.

The FDA has decided to make all labeling of GEF's voluntary. This does not protect my right to know. Mandatory labeling is essential for the traceability of GEF products throughout the food supply. Without the mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a GEF. Further, voluntary labeling unfairly reverses the financial burden onto producers who do not use GEF's.

The proposed rules are unlikely to provide the public with adequate information on GEF's for independent review. The FDA notes that producers of GEF's may claim that any such information, including the pre market notification is trade secret or confidential business information subject to exemption from public disclosure requirements.

The proposed rule that environmental review procedures be exempt under the National Environmental Policy Act does not protect the environment.

I will settle for nothing less than mandatory safety testing and labeling of all genetically engineered foods (GEF's). Further all GE foods should be taken off supermarket shelves until they have been safety tested and labeled.

Sincerely,

Dan Norris 3/18/01

Dan Norris

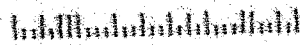
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